

CONNECTION OF OCCUPATION WITH LONGEVITY.

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THE Reports of the Mortality in Massachusetts, from May 1, 1843, to December 31, 1856, state the ages and occupations of the males who died, after they were twenty years old. This record, including 42,329 male adults, distributed in various proportions among one hundred and thirty-four different occupations, show, in great measure, the influence of employment on human life, and is a most important contribution to vital statistics.

This observation has not been sufficiently large to determine the longevity in all of the fields of labor. Yet in regard to the principal occupations, some estimate may be made as to their effect upon life, and all may be arranged into classes, according to some of their natural affinities, to their effects on those engaged in them, to the organs, faculties or powers, that perform the labor or bear the burden, or to the exposures and privations that are made necessary; and from these, important deductions may be drawn in regard to longevity.

Upon these principles, all the occupations, except the paupers, are arranged into the following ten classes, and the table below is prepared according to them.

- I.—Cultivators of the earth.—Farmers and gardeners.
- II.—Active mechanics, working out of doors.—Carpenters, masons, &c.
- III.—Active mechanics, working in shops.—Cabinet makers, machinists, &c.
- IV.—Inactive mechanics in shops.—Shoemakers, tailors, engravers, &c.
- V.—Mechanics.—Trades not specified.
- VI.—Seamen, fishermen, &c., employed on the ocean.
- VII.—Laborers.—Without special trades, mostly the poor.
- VIII.—Others (not farmers nor mechanics) occupied abroad.—Expressmen, teamsters, sextons, stevedores, &c.
- IX.—Professional men, students, &c., working with the brain.
- X.—Merchants, capitalists, financiers, engaged in the transfer or care of property.

| | Classes of occupations. | No. of occupations. | Number of deaths. | Sum of ages. Years. | Average longevity. Years. |
|------|---|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| I | Cultivators of the earth, . . . | 2 | 11,741 | 753,457 | 64.2 |
| II | Active mechanics abroad, . . . | 11 | 3,376 | 162,831 | 48.24 |
| III | Active mechanics in shops, . . . | 52 | 4,431 | 206,337 | 46.56 |
| IV | Inactive mechanics in shops, . . . | 18 | 4,628 | 193,689 | 41.85 |
| V | Mechanics, trades not specified, . . . | | 504 | 21,784 | 43.22 |
| VI | Employed on the ocean, . . . | 1 | 2,785 | 128,340 | 46.08 |
| VII | Laborers, &c. | 6 | 8,372 | 373,681 | 44.63 |
| VIII | Others laboring abroad, . . . | 19 | 862 | 37,558 | 43.57 |
| IX | Professional men, | 10 | 1,382 | 72,669 | 52.58 |
| X | Merchants, financiers, capitalists, . . . | 15 | 3,574 | 172,952 | 48.39 |

The difference of longevity in the 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th classes, shows the effect of exercise and air upon the protraction of life, and is worthy of consideration by all in the selection of employments for themselves or for their children.

Longevity in some leading occupations in Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island.

| Occupations. | Deaths. | Average longevity. | Occupations. | Deaths. | Average longevity. |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Clergymen, | 389 | 55.36 | Tanners, | 230 | 47.90 |
| Lawyers, | 276 | 54.76 | Merchants and clerks, . . . | 2,386 | 47.46 |
| Physicians, | 540 | 54.32 | Cabinet makers, . . . | 253 | 46.34 |
| Coopers, | 338 | 57.4 | Shoemakers, . . . | 3,233 | 43.03 |
| Blacksmiths, | 822 | 51.51 | Painters, | 500 | 42.37 |
| Carpenters, | 2,052 | 49.72 | Tailors, | 486 | 41.8 |
| Masons, | 492 | 48.24 | | | |

